

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-13 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horstmann U.S. Patent 5,685,837 (hereinafter "Horstmann"). Claims 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Applicants' Reply

Applicants' independent claim 1 defines an electrode system for facilitating the healing of a wound. The system comprises a first and a second electrode. The electrodes comprise oppositely charged polymers of sufficient differential voltage potential and sufficient charge densities to cause a current to flow from the first electrode to the second electrode through the wound when the electrode system is applied to the wound.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner simply states that claim 1 is anticipated by Horstmann. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Horstmann is directed to a galvanically active transdermal therapeutic system. See the title and abstract of Horstmann. The Horstmann system includes two galvanic cells that are connected in series to an electrically conductive connecting layer, but positioned in reverse arrangement of anode and cathode. See, e.g., claim 1 of Horstmann. The galvanic cells "basically correspond[] to that of the Leclanche cell known and proven in dry batteries for decades." Horstmann, col. 3:13-15. Therefore, the two galvanic cells of Horstmann act as a battery and produce current through a patient's skin as a result of chemical reactions that occur within the galvanic cells.


Horstmann, however, fails to show or suggest using two oppositely charged polymers of sufficient differential voltage potential and sufficient charge densities to cause a current to flow as defined by applicants' claim 1. Rather, Horstmann, in stark contrast to applicants' invention, teaches using two galvanic cells connected in series to produce current as a result of chemical reactions.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reason, applicants submit that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-13 should be found allowable over Horstmann. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-13 should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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